

Census 2020

Taking Informed Action: Why is it important for all Californians to participate in the U.S. Census?

Part I: Introduction

You are hosting a birthday party at your house. You invite 20 guests, but on the day of your celebration 40 guests show up to your party. What do you do with the extra 20 guests? How do the extra guests affect your party?

Part II: KWL Chart

What I know about the Census?	What I want to know about the Census?	What I learned today about the census?

Part III: Evaluating Sources. Use the excerpts below from the U.S. Census to answer the following questions.

“Ever since 1790, the population census statistics have been the official figures used every 10 years to compute the number of congressional representatives allowed each state and...to align congressional district boundaries so that each member of Congress represents approximately the same number of people. For the same reason, the census figures are used in redistricting state legislatures and other local governing bodies.”

- Source: *Factfinder for the Nation: History and Organization (page 3), US Census Bureau (2000)*

1. Based on this excerpt, what is one reason why the national census is important?.

“In recent years, many Federal, state, and local government plans, grants-in-aid, and revenue-sharing programs have been based by law on factors calculated from census statistics for population, per capita income, geographic distribution, and other items. Likewise, census data of all types—population, housing, and all of the economic subjects, including transportation—are crucial for market analysis, for planning new services and facilities, for affirmative action programs, for studying environmental impact, and for basic research in many academic fields. Thus, it is even more important now than it was in 1790 that every person and business establishment be counted and that the information about each be accurate and complete.”

- Source: *Factfinder for the Nation: History and Organization (page 3), U.S. Census Bureau (2000)*

2. Based on this excerpt, what is another reason why the national census is important?.

Part IV: Investigation. Answer the following questions using the links below or hard copies provided by your teacher.

- #1: What type of statistics are collected in the census?
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218>
- #2: Should my family and I participate in the census? <https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/2020-confidentiality.html>
- #3: How do my community and I benefit from the census? <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2017/decennial/census-data-federal-funds.html>

Part V: Closure + Civil Dialogue

Revisit your KWL chart and see if you can answer any of the “What I want to know about the Census?” questions that your class generated at the beginning of the lesson. You may also check to see if the student responses in the “What I know?” section of the KWL chart were accurate based on the information gathered in this lesson. Your teacher will review with you prior to having you participate in a civil dialogue about the census, and during the civil dialogue use the space below to record any new questions you have about the U.S. Census and record and any new information you learned about the U.S. Census.

Civil Dialogue: U.S. Census

Additional Questions I have about the U.S. Census	Additional information I have learned about the U.S. Census